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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

ESCALANTE, OVIDIO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2614

DATE MAILED: 11/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/028,275

Applicant(s)

SHERWOOD, AMY L.

Examiner

Ovidio Escalante

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13-22, 35-44, 47-56 and 59-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13-22, 35-44, 47-56 and 59-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on September 18, 2006. **Claims 1-11,13-22,35-44,47-56,59-62** are now pending in the present application.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 18, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
5. Claims 1,13,35 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loucks US Patent 6,760,412 in view of Langsenkamp US Patent 6,556,664.

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Regarding claim 1, Loucks teaches a method of arranging for an electronically-recorded message to be delivered to a communication medium of a second user at a selected time, (abstract), said method comprising the steps of:

recording the message by a first user on a stand-alone communication device in direct connection to a telephone line as customer premises equipment, (fig. 2; col. 4, lines 49-61; col. 5, lines 42-60; col. 8, lines 6-20);

inputting an access code on the stand-alone communication device for accessing the communication medium of the second user, (col. 11, lines 38-67; fig. 7) and

indicating a delivery time for delivery of the message from the stand-alone communication device to the communication medium of the second user, (figs. 3A, 3B, col. 7, lines 51-64).

Loucks does not specifically teach wherein the message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time.

In the same field of endeavor, Langsenkamp teaches of a method and system for sending recorded to a communication media of a recipient at a selected time and wherein the recorded message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time, (col. 14, line 64-col. 15, line 20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to cancel delivery of the message so that when the user sees that there is no longer a need to have the message sent they can prevent the message from being sent.

Regarding claims 13 and 35, Loucks teaches a method and system for sending an electronically-recorded message to a communication medium of a second user at a selected time, (abstract), said method comprises the steps and means for:

recording the message by a first user on a stand-alone communication device in direct connection to a telephone line as customer premises equipment, (fig. 2; col. 4, lines 49-61; col. 5, lines 42-60; col. 8, lines 6-20);

inputting an access code on the stand-alone communication device for accessing the communication medium of the second user, (col. 11, lines 38-67; fig. 7);

indicating a delivery time for delivery of the message to a communication medium of the recipient, (col. 7, lines 51-69; figs. 3A, 3B); and

sending the message from the stand-alone communication device to the communication medium of the recipient when the time reaches the delivery time, (col. 7, lines 51-69).

Loucks does not specifically teach wherein the message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time.

In the same field of endeavor, Langsenkamp teaches of a method and system for sending recorded to a communication media of a recipient at a selected time and wherein the recorded message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time, (col. 14, line 64-col. 15, line 20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to cancel delivery of the message so that when the user sees that there is no longer a need to have the message sent they can prevent the message from being sent.

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Regarding claim 47, Loucks teaches a system for sending an electronically-recorded message to a communication medium of a second user at a selected time; (abstract), said system comprising:

means for recording by a first user a message on a stand-alone communication device in direct connection to a telephone line as customer premises equipment, (fig. 2; col. 4, lines 49-61; col. 5, lines 42-60; col. 8, lines 6-20);

means for inputting an access code on the stand-alone communication device for accessing a communication medium of a second user, (col. 11, lines 38-67 fig. 7);

means for indicating a delivery time for delivery of the message to a communication medium of the second user, (figs. 3A, 3B; col. 7, lines 51-64);

means for keeping track of a clock time, (figs. 3A, 3B; col. 7, lines 51-64); and

means for sending the message from the stand-alone communication device to the communication medium of the second user when the time reaches the delivery time, (col. 7, lines 51-64).

Loucks does not specifically teach wherein the message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time.

In the same field of endeavor, Langsenkamp teaches of a method and system for sending recorded to a communication media of a recipient at a selected time and wherein the recorded message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time, (col. 14, line 64-col. 15, line 20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to cancel delivery of the message so

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that when the user sees that there is no longer a need to have the message sent they can prevent the message from being sent.

6. Claims 1-5,8-11,13-22,35-44,46-56 and 59-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loucks US Patent 6,760,412 in view of Chandra et al. US Patent Pub. 2002/0138582 and further in view of Langsenkamp US Patent 6,556,664.

Regarding claim 1, Loucks teaches a method of arranging for an electronically-recorded message to be delivered to a communication medium of a recipient at a selected time, (abstract), said method comprising the steps of:

recording the message on a stand-alone communication device in direct connection to a telephone line as customer premises equipment, (fig. 2; col. 4, lines 49-61; col. 5, lines 42-60; col. 8, lines 6-20);

inputting an access code on the stand-alone communication device for accessing the communication medium of the recipient, (col. 11, lines 38-67; fig. 7) and

indicating a delivery time for delivery of the message from the stand-alone communication device to the communication medium of the recipient, (figs. 3A, 3B, col. 7, lines 51-64).

Loucks does not specifically teach that the recorded message which was recorded by a first user is to be delivered to a second user since the first user and recipient in Loucks appear to be the same person. However, the Examiner notes that since Loucks teaches that the user of Loucks can input any telephone number then it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the user of Louchks can input a number belonging to a second user.

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Nonetheless, Chandra teaches that it was well known in the art to have a reminder system in which a reminder is recorded by a first person and delivered to a second person, (paragraphs 0540,0541,0544,0252).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to send reminders to second recipients as taught by Chandra so that the message reminder sender can send their reminder to a plurality of different recipients if they want to remind everyone that is part of a group.

Loucks in view of Chandra do not specifically teach wherein the message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time.

In the same field of endeavor, Langsenkamp teaches of a method and system for sending recorded to a communication media of a recipient at a selected time and wherein the recorded message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time, (col. 14, line 64-col. 15, line 20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to cancel delivery of the message so that when the user sees that there is no longer a need to have the message sent they can prevent the message from being sent.

Regarding claims 2,15, 37 and 49 Loucks, as applied to claims 1,14,36 and 48 teaches inputting a plurality of access codes for accessing a plurality of communication media, (fig. 7).

Regarding claims 3,16, 38 and 50, Loucks, as applied to claims 2,15,37 and 49 teaches indicating a plurality of delivery times, each delivery time corresponding to delivery of the

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recorded message to each of a plurality of communication media, (figs. 3A, 3B; col. 7, lines 51-64).

Regarding claims 4,17, 39 and 51, Loucks in view of Chandra, as applied to claims 3,16 and 50, teaches indicating whether the message should only be delivered if the second user directly receives the message, (fig. 4; col. 9, lines 43-54).

Regarding claims 5,18,40 and 52, Loucks in view of Chandra, as applied to claims 4,17,39 and 51, teaches indicating a re-send delay period used to re-send the message to a second user after a re-send delay period if the recipient does not directly receive the message, (col. 9, lines 43-54).

Regarding claims 8,19, 41 and 53, Loucks, as applied to claims 1,13, 35 and 47 teaches wherein the communication medium is a telephone, (fig. 7; col. 11, lines 38-67).

Regarding claims 9,20,42 and 54, Loucks, as applied to claims 8,19,41 and 53, teaches wherein the access code is a telephone number for the telephone, (fig. 7; col. 11, lines 38-67).

Regarding claims 10,21,43 and 55, Loucks, as applied to claims 1,13,35 and 47 teaches wherein the communication medium is a voicemail mailbox, (fig. 7; col. 11, lines 38-67).

Regarding claims 11,22, 44 and 56, Loucks, as applied to claims 10,21,43 and 45 teaches wherein the access code is a voicemail mailbox number, (fig. 7; col. 11, lines 38-67).

Regarding claims 13 and 35, Loucks teaches a method and system for sending an electronically-recorded message to a communication medium of a recipient at a selected timed, (abstract), said method comprises the steps and means for:

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recording the message on a stand-alone communication device in direct connection to a telephone line as customer premises equipment, (fig. 2; col. 4, lines 49-61; col. 5, lines 42-60; col. 8, lines 6-20);

inputting an access code on the stand-alone communication device for accessing the communication medium of the recipient, (col. 11, lines 38-67; fig. 7);

indicating a delivery time for delivery of the message to a communication medium of the recipient, (col. 7, lines 51-69; figs. 3A, 3B); and

sending the message from the stand-alone communication device to the communication medium of the recipient when the time reaches the delivery time, (col. 7, lines 51-69).

Loucks does not specifically teach that the recorded message which was recorded by a first user is to be delivered to a second user since the first user and recipient in Loucks appear to be the same person. However, the Examiner notes that since Loucks teaches that the user of Loucks can input any telephone number then it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the user of Loucks can input a number belonging to a second user.

Nonetheless, Chandra teaches that it was well known in the art to have a reminder system in which a reminder is recorded by a first person and delivered to a second person, (paragraphs 0540,0541,0544,0252).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to send reminders to second recipients as taught by Chandra so that the message reminder sender can send their reminder to a plurality of different recipients if they want to remind everyone that is part of a group.

Loucks in view of Chandra do not specifically teach wherein the message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time.

In the same field of endeavor, Langsenkamp teaches of a method and system for sending recorded to a communication media of a recipient at a selected time and wherein the recorded message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time, (col. 14, line 64-col. 15, line 20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to cancel delivery of the message so that when the user sees that there is no longer a need to have the message sent they can prevent the message from being sent.

Regarding claims 14,36 and 48, Loucks, as applied to claims 14,35 and 47, teaches wherein the communication medium comprises a plurality of communication media, each communication medium having its own unique access code, (fig. 7).

Regarding claim 47, Loucks teaches a system for sending an electronically-recorded message to a communication medium of a recipient at a selected time, (abstract), said system comprising:

means for recording a message on a stand-alone communication device in direct connection to a telephone line as customer premises equipment, (fig. 2; col. 4, lines 49-61; col. 5, lines 42-60; col. 8, lines 6-20);

means for inputting an access code on the stand alone communication device for accessing a communication medium of a recipient, (col. 11, lines 38-67 fig. 7);

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means for indicating a delivery time for delivery of the message to a communication medium of the recipient, (figs. 3A, 3B; col. 7, lines 51-64);

means for keeping track of a clock time, (figs. 3A, 3B; col. 7, lines 51-64); and

means for sending the message from the stand-alone communication device to the communication medium of the recipient when the time reaches the delivery time, (col. 7, lines 51-64).

Loucks does not specifically teach that the recorded message which was recorded by a first user is to be delivered to a second user since the first user and recipient in Loucks appear to be the same person. However, the Examiner notes that since Loucks teaches that the user of Loucks can input any telephone number then it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the user of Loucks can input a number belonging to a second user.

Nonetheless, Chandra teaches that it was well known in the art to have a reminder system in which a reminder is recorded by a first person and delivered to a second person, (paragraphs 0540,0541,0544,0252).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to send reminders to second recipients as taught by Chandra so that the message reminder sender can send their reminder to a plurality of different recipients if they want to remind everyone that is part of a group.

Loucks in view of Chandra do not specifically teach wherein the message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time.

In the same field of endeavor, Langsenkamp teaches of a method and system for sending recorded to a communication media of a recipient at a selected time and wherein the recorded

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message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time, (col. 14, line 64-col. 15, line 20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to cancel delivery of the message so that when the user sees that there is no longer a need to have the message sent they can prevent the message from being sent.

Regarding claims 59-62, Loucks in view of Chandra teaches wherein the first user is distinct from the second user, (paragraphs 540,541,544).

As stated above, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing the user to send reminders to second recipients as taught by Chandra so that the message reminder sender can send their reminder to a plurality of different recipients if they want to remind everyone that is part of a group.

7. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loucks in view of Chandra and further in view of Langsenkamp and further in view of Hogan et al. US Patent 5,646,982.

Regarding claim 6, Loucks in view of Chandra and Langsenkamp, as applied to claim 5, teaches indicating a maximum re-send message number used to re-send the message to a second user a maximum number of times when the recipient does not directly receive the message, (col. 9, lines 51-54; fig. 7).

Loucks, Chandar and Langsenkamp do not teach that the maximum re-send message number is "selected by the first user".

In the same field of endeavor of message delivery, Hogan teaches that it was well known in the art that users can set a maximum re-send number for message delivery attempts, (col. 2, lines 25-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Loucks by allowing a user to set the threshold number as taught by Hogan so that the user can be provided with full control for delivering their message and setting all of the parameters of the message.

Regarding claims 7, Loucks in view of Chandra, as applied to claim 6, teaches indicating a re-send message number used to re-send the message to a second user a number of times, (fig. 7; col. 11, lines 38-67).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed September 18, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant contends that Langsenkamp appears deficient in teaching or suggesting indicating a delivery time for delivery of the message from the stand-alone communication device to the communication medium of the second user, wherein the message is retractable by canceling delivery of the message before the delivery time since Langsenkamp does not disclose that an individual call can be canceled by itself.

9. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., an individual call can be canceled by itself.) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are

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interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Furthermore, while Langsenkamp teaches of canceling delivery of messages to a plurality of message recipients, it is clearly shown in Langsenkamp that a single call can be canceled based on the timing of when the user initiates the retraction step. That is, if the user initiates the retraction before any call goes out or if there is one more call left then, the last call will be canceled. Since Langsenkamp provides for plural users it would further be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a single recipient can be inputted for message delivery based on the needs of the message sender. One of ordinary skill in the art would clearly see that the system of Langsenkamp can conceivably send messages from 0 to n number of recipients.

Conclusion

10. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(571) 273-7537, (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ovidio Escalante whose telephone number is 571-272-7537. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 6:30AM to 3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan S Tsang can be reached on 571-272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

OVIDIO ESCALANTE
PATENT EXAMINER

Ovidio Escalante

Ovidio Escalante
Primary Patent Examiner
Group 2614
November 16, 2006

O.E./oe